

MEHUN NEWS

VOL. 1

ATELIER de MEHUN-SUR-YEVRE, (CHER), FRANCE, FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 1919

NO. 3

SEVENTY-FIVES SENT TO U. S.

Famous Pieces Of Artillery Being Overhauled Here.

Since the signing of the armistice the process of rushing hundreds of pieces of artillery to the fighting area has been supplemented by a speedy return of train load after train load of this kind of fighting material for repair and care, preparatory to shipment to the United States.

The 8 inch and 9.2 inch British model guns and carriages have all been completed and re-shipped to the ports. These heavy guns were re-assembled after their overhauling here, and were shipped without crating. The 155 m. m. guns are still arriving in quantities, but the major part of the work of the Artillery Repair Shop is now concentrated on the overhauling of the 75 m. m. This famous piece of artillery which did more than any one invention to win the War, is now being received here in large numbers. Each gun and carriage is carefully overhauled and the parts packed in several crates and boxes for return to the United States.

As the guns are taken from the cars they are arranged in rows across the big shop. A single crew of ten men dismantle each gun and arrange the parts on the floor. The next step comprises a thorough cleaning of the parts and the polishing of any rusty places that may be found. After the

(continued on page 4.)

LAUNDRY PRICE REDUCED HALF

Beginning March 1st, the laundry price will be cut in half, fifty centimes for ten pieces. This reduction has been made in spite of the fact that in the last month a great quantity of clothing from the Evacuation Battalion which would normally be washed at a Q. M. salvage depot was laundered without any money return.

RAILWAY ARTILLERY ARRIVES

Among recent arrivals of German Heavy Artillery, turned over under the terms of the Armistice, is a consignment from Metternich, Germany of 5 Railroad Mounted Rifles. The calibers range from 17 to 24 CM. In action the 24 CM. rests on the ground, the weight being removed from the railroad trucks. Similar artillery, used by the U. S. put over a very effective shell fire on Metz, and because of its mobility, was able after every bombardment to be miles in the rear before the enemy could obtain accurate artillery observation.

CROSS COUNTRY RUN NEXT WEEK

Signal Corps Watch and Increase In Passes Feature Prizes.

Saturday, March 8th at 2 o'clock a Cross Country Run will be started from the Post Commissary. "The Gun" will start contestants from every organization in camp, over a course of 3 1/2 miles extending along the Mehun Road to Rue Chemin de Fer along Rue Chemin de Fer to R. R. station and return to camp by the same route. Among the inducements offered are a number of very attractive prizes. First Prize will be a high grade Signal Corps watch. Other prizes are silver identification plates, "a la wrist," and loving cups. The Company whose contestants score the highest number of points will receive a 5 per cent increase on their pass allotment for a week. Entries are received at every Company Orderly Room and will close March 6th. Issoudun is anxious to meet a local Track Team, and men who win in the Cross Country stand first chance for places on the team.

SCENERY TARGETS GO TO GERMANY

Will Provide Necessary Diversion For Third Army.

In order to prevent the restless doughboys along the Rhine from shooting holes in nearby German scenery, the Third Army has placed orders with the Ordnance Repair Shops for 1,060 improved landscape targets and 21,200 frames for same. These are now being made in the woodworking division and soon will adorn the hillsides and valleys around Coblenz, Ehrensbreitstein, and other German towns where the Army of Occupation is quartered.

The targets which will be painted and camouflaged after they arrive up the line, it is believed, form a very necessary diversion for the Americans up there. Likewise, it is declared, the targets will provide a thorough means of perfecting the Americans in the use of the rifle and machine gun.

In producing the job the Woodworking division will set a record all its own. Although five weeks were given in which to complete the frames, the work will be completed in less than three, despite the fact that more than a quarter of a million pieces of lumber—160,000 square feet—will go into the job. Approximately a ton and a half of nails—2943 pounds to be exact—will be required.

Privates Preston Morris, Hq. Co., and Harold G. Lacy, 2nd Co., went out as convoyers with the first two shipments. The remaining targets will be ready for shipment this week.

RAMBLERS TO PLAY AT "Y."

Next Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, the Ramblers will play at the Y. M. C. A. This is a show of eight vaudeville acts with nineteen enlisted men in the cast, and reports from other camps mention that there is real American kick in every act.

The Mehun News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE
ORDNANCE TROOPS AT ATELIER
de MEHUN-SUR-YEVRE
A. P. O. 741.

Managing Editor - Pvt. Wm. L. Gantz
News Editor - Cpl. Floyd W. Maxwell

Now that we realize that it is up to us to wait patiently for our turn to go home, and that our stay here may lengthen into weeks, and perhaps with some of us into months, many men are taking advantage of the recent G. O. No. 14 to take the long delayed leave. On a 4 percent basis about 170 men may be away from this Post at any one time, or on an average of 12 men going on leave every day. An order effective February 21st allows 3 men from this camp to go on 3-day pass to Paris daily.

The popular vacation for the enlisted man is the Class A 7-day leave. This provides for 7 days, not including time of travel, to some designated leave area. Transportation, quarters and rations are provided by the Government. Class B leave for 14 days includes the time of travel, and the soldier pays his own transportation, but is allowed \$.60 a day for rations as with class B leave. This leave is to Great Britain, Belgium, Italy and almost any point in France. The 3-day pass to Paris known as class C leave permits extra time for travel enroute. The soldier is allowed \$.60 a day for rations as with class B leave. The Class E leave is a 3-day pass to any point in France except Paris and the Riviera.

Applications for leave should be written in the form of a letter to the Commanding Officer, or made out on the forms provided for the purpose. After your Company Commander and the officer in charge of your Division have approved it, it goes direct to the Commanding Officer who turns it over to the Military Department for action.

These leaves offer an exceptional opportunity for the American soldier to see something of the historic spots of these old countries before his return to the United States. For this reason we should consider wisely where to spend the leave, and if possible study over in advance the history and points of interest, so as to get from the trip something of permanent value to us as well as making it a time of sport and amusement.

THE CAMP TATTLER.

Cook Olson, the leading distributor of eats in the 1st Co., has sure showed the gang how eats should be cooked. Officers' Mess beware, this man is indispensable.

Private Vince Carriero received a letter from Italy which reads, "Shortage Of Macaroni, Thousands Starving." For the love of our appetites indorse that letter to the Quartermaster, we sure will give until it hurts.

Ord. Sgt. Ed Griffiths and Jack Zang, both members of the town where Henry Ford runs his "Tin Factory," are still running a close race on that 'Stach proposition.

Corporal Whiteside, the 6th company clerk, who enjoys installing card index systems, is now open to instruct all clerks on "First Sergeant's Advice and its Worth."

Sergeant Tibbetts, one of the old "Regs" was recently invited over to get something for his bad cold. After consuming two glasses of the finest French medicine (Two Generals) he turned to his two "BUCK" private companions and whispered, "Boys, I must be going as it would not be good to be seen in the company of Enlisted men." Who's turn was it Mackay.

Sgt. James of the 2nd company is having a sign painted at the shops which reads, "No Bull Fights on this Bunk." Sgt. Kinsel is still hunting his 50 centimes.

First Sergeant Hawthorne reports two men of his company who do not care to go home. Give them a class Z leave to Base Hospital No. 76.

Private Brown still argues that Ohio never was attached to Michigan for rations, but he says according to this weeks Herald, Michigan sure is leaning hard on Ohio for Wet Rations.

Sergeant Chief Phillips late of little "Rhoddy" still receives his mail in bunches. Do all those girls know you are no longer in the Field Artillery?

Sergeant Acuff, late secretary of the "Handshakers," now in the Evacuation Battalion, can be seen parading around the "Y" these afternoons all dressed up in his new tailored serge. Good boy, Sarge, they will never know the difference at home. Sam Brown's are not worn.

PARIS FOR AMERICAN SOLDIERS

BY SGT. JULIAN S. FOWLER

To the enlisted man on his first visit to Paris with a three-day leave, and not any too many francs, three questions present themselves: where to sleep, where to eat, and how to see as much as possible in the allotted time.

To the first two questions the answer is: The Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. Both these organizations maintain hotels: at those of the Red Cross lodging is free. The most convenient are on the Avenue Victor Emanuel III, No.1, and the Hotel Tuileries on the Rue St. Hyacinthe. The largest "Y" hotel is the Hotel du Pavillion on the Rue d'Echequier, near the Boulevard Strassbourg.

All the Red Cross hotels and the canteens at Gare St. Lazaire, Gare du Nord, Gare de Lyon serve excellent and abundant meals for fifty and seventy-five centimes. Dinner at the Y. M. C. A. headquarters canteen, 31 Avenue Montaigne, near the Palais de Glace is three francs fifty, and very good. This latter place has the most comfortable reading and writing rooms in Paris. The Palais de Glace, the chief amusement place maintained by the "Y," is on the Avenue des Champs Elysees very near the Place de la Concorde. The Knights of Columbus clubrooms and canteen are on the Boulevard Malesherbes not far from the Madeleine.

When you reach Paris, or before, if possible, provide yourself with a map of the city giving an index of the streets and metro stations. Get familiar with this, and you can never lose your way, or fail to find the place you want to go to. No matter where you go in the city, there is always a Metro or Nord-Sud Station somewhere near, and in a short time and for a small fare you can go anywhere. As Paris has very few surface trolleys, the subway system is highly perfected and affords the best means for quick travel and cheap transportation. But beware of the fancy looking maps with pictures of the notable buildings, which will be offered you by French vendors at the stations and on the streets; they show only the principal streets and are almost useless. Go to any newstand or bookshop and for about two francs get a detailed map. Next, buy a good English guidebook, such as "Eight Days in Paris," or any of the cheaper paper-bound guides which the Y. M. C. A. will provide, or which can be had

(continued on next page.)

GLEANINGS FROM THE PRESS

The Krupp plant at Essen, Germany is doing work for the United States Government.

Springfield, Mass. is one of the first American Cities to offer French girls a two years' course in the American Methods.

Since the armistice was signed the War Department has released 6,000 civilian clerks from Washington, D. C. During the war the employees numbered 35,000.

Secretary of War Baker is in favor of the abandonment of fourteen of the sixteen National Guard camps and the purchase by the Government of the sites of all National Army cantonments. He would have the Government acquire Camp Kearney, Calif., and Camp Sevier, S. C.

The figure given by General March as to the Total losses in killed in action and died of wounds from the combat divisions is 39,158. This is exclusive of the casualties in the field signal battalions, and covers a period of only five months of active fighting. Some idea of the intensity of the fighting can be obtained when we consider that the total losses in killed and died of wounds in the Federal Army during four years in our Civil War was 110,000.

29TH CO. WINS IN BASEBALL

The fur flew when Mehun's two colored companies mixed it at baseball last Saturday afternoon. The 29th Co. vanquished the 7th to the tune of 10 to 1. Cpl. W. Fox made the only home run of the game. The batteries for the 7th Co. were: S. Turner, p. and E. Williams, c. Geo. Gardner, p. and Sgt. J. F. Boyer, c., did the heavy work for the 29th Co.

at Smith's bookshop on the Rue de Rivoli, two blocks from Concorde.

Every bit of Paris has it's story, usually a long and thrilling one, and your visit to Norte Dame, the Madeleine, the Louvre, the Tuileries gardens, the Place de la Concorde, the Arc de Triomphe, Napoleon's tomb at the Invalides, to mention only a few, places, will be far more worth while if you know something of their history.

The Y. M. C. A. provides sight-seeing trips about the city in motor busses with stops at the principal points of interest. The headquarters for these trips is at the Hotel du Pavillion.

TRUCKS AND TRACTORS REPAIRED

The M. T. C. and Tractor Repair Division are now combined with Capt. Wm. S. Lawson in charge. A large force of men, composed of mechanics, chauffeurs and clerks, is needed to keep the large fleet of motor-cycles, passenger cars, trucks and tractors in operation. In addition to the repair of the gasoline propelled vehicles used in camp a few tractors have come in from the Front for repair. Tractors of 2 1-2, 5, 10, and 20 ton capacity are returned to the States. To date 375 renewed tractors have left Mehun "Homeward Bound." Capt. Lawson when asked, "if he had received any German tractors," replied, "no, and if I do, the first thing done to them should be work of demolition nature. The much vaunted German Efficiency could not build a tractor that would stand the 'gaff' like the American manufactured Caterpillar."

ST. AMANDS LOSES TO MEHUN

Mehun's basket ball aggregation turned the tables on St. Amands in their return engagement at the Y. M. C. A. last Friday evening, the final score being 14 to 10. The visitors showed good form but were outplayed by the locals. Kingdon of Mehun was the individual star of the game. Twenty minute halves were played.

The lineup for Mehun was:—Mc Millan, R. F.; Smith, L. F.; Kingdon, C., Kasha, R. G.; Cohen, L. G.

In the first half the score was 8-4. The final score was 14-10.

Lt. Reed acted as referee.

Issoudun Outclasses Mehun

Tuesday, the 25th, Issoudun put the skids under the Mehun basket ball team at the Issoudun court by a score of 30-9. Mehun was handicapped by a weak center position and by the fact that the players previous experience on sawdust had been on a sawdust trail rather than on a sawdust basket ball court. Some of the star players have been evacuated with the Fourth Battalion and material is needed for the team which is scheduled to play Nevers March 4th and Chatereau March 10th. The team was particularly impressed by the excellent treatment given them both during and after the game.

THE MEHUN CHATEAU

BY ORD. SGT. WM. LAFOE

This section of France is full of historic buildings of a very romantic nature. The much admired Chateau of Charles VII at Mehun-sur-Yevre was constructed on an old fortress belonging to a family named De Courtenay. It was begun in the year 1300. Duc de Berry was given this site as well as the great tower at Bourges and the Chateau at Vierzon and Lury by his father King Jean-Le-Bon in order to recompense him for land that had been given to Edward III of England.

The Duc de Berry, however, spent most of his time at his chateau at Mehun, and upon his death it was given to his son Charles who became King Charles VII at the very early age of 15 years.

It was in Mehun in the year 1429 that Jeanne D'Arc started on an expedition against St. Pierre-le-Moustier et la Charite. After winning the expedition, she returned again to find the King and stayed in Mehun and Bourges during the winter of the same year.

A great part of King Charles licentious life was spent in this chateau. Before his death he imagined that his enemies were trying to poison him and he starved himself. He died July 22, 1461.

After the King's death the tower fell into decay and has been only partially restored in recent years by the historic society of France.

Personal Mention

Jack Millner is at last settled. His present address is K. P., Hdqs. Co., O. R. S. D., A. E. F.

Pvt's. Dougherty and Flournoy are still at the same old argument. Doc: You Southerners. Flournoy: Yes, you Northerners.

As Private John Woods remarks, "I've been in this man's army fifteen months and sure done my bit" - - - GOLDBRICKING.

"Doc" Rae our own pill pusher is now arranging a trip to Scotland to visit his parents. Bon Voyage, Doc, but be sure and leave that "Rescue Station" unlocked.

BUY = 1924 W.S.S. = BUY

CAMP BRIEFS

The plank road is being extended thru Gun Shop No. 1 and 2 into the Salvage Yard in the rear.

642 watches of the enlisted men of the camp have been repaired at the Optical Instrument Shop in the last two months.

Classes in French History will be held each Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening at 7:30 p. m. at the Educational Building.

Last Tuesday another shipment of German Material left the Shops for the United States. Ord. Sgt. G. D. Smith was in charge of the convoy.

Extensive alterations are being made in the Y. M. C. A. building by the Camp Construction Division. The seating capacity of the hut will be doubled.

Flooding the lower section of the city of Mehun, the Yevre river is the highest it has been since the spring of 1910. The water is within a few inches of the Rue Jeanne D'Arc.

Two gasoline stations are being erected for the Motor Transportation Division, one in the rear of the Shops Administration Building and the other near the Camp Garage.

An interesting point in connection with the salvaging of some model 1894 Winchester Carbines which arrived from one of the American Battle Fronts came up when some of the Small Arms workmen who were formerly assemblers at the Winchester Company recognized these rifles as belonging to a shipment of 15,000 rifles sent to Mexico in 1916 thru a New York agency.

"Gold Fish and Willie"

Wednesday afternoon, Lt. Snyder, Camp Entertainment Officer, with the aid of a can opener, held the first rehearsal of the Camp Revue, "Gold Fish and Willie." Great mystery surrounds the nature of the show but it promises to be very original and to have a local setting.

Boxing Championship Postponed

The S. O. S. Boxing Championship will be postponed until March 23rd. Dalton and Thompson will probably represent The Ordnance Repair Shops.

BAND APPEARS IN CONCERT

Playing real Yankee music before a crowd of enthusiastic American soldiers, the newly organized 20-piece Camp band made its initial appearance in evening concerts at the "Y" Thursday evening. Director, R. W. Earnshaw who succeeds H. E. Mincy who is leaving with the Fourth Evacuation Battalion feels highly gratified at the progress the men have made in the past few weeks.

Tonight the band will furnish an evening's entertainment for the men at Camp Foecy and at 9 o'clock Sunday morning it will again play in concert here.

The Commissary has some Hershey Almond Bars—one for each man. Take your coppers with you.

Seventy-Fives Sent to U. S.

(continued from page 1.)

parts are cleaned, they are all inspected by the inspecting officers and the gun is star gauged. In this way the inspector can tell any variation of the inside diameter, such as an enlargement at any point caused by heavy or continued firing. An accurate record is kept in which all the findings are tabulated. The parts are then thoroughly greased, the small parts reassembled, and the gun recuperator, and wheels packed in separate crates.

These guns are handled at the rate of 23 per day. A high record was made on the morning of February 14, when 14 guns were turned out ready for shipment. Up to date the Shop has worked over a total of 412 75 m. m. guns complete with carriage together with a lot of extra guns and numerous spare parts.

The 75 m. m. gun, called by the French "Le Glorieux 75," was invented in 1890 by Lieut. Colonel Deport with the assistance of Commandant Rimailho. The gun has a range of 8,000 meters and can fire 30 rounds a minute. In the early stages of the War the French had practically no other gun, and the victory of the Marne was largely due to its rapid action and the power of its high explosive. It is of prime importance, therefore, that we put all these guns into first class shape so that upon their return to the States we shall have a good stock of high grade field artillery which will be of value for training or defensive purposes.

WATER SYSTEM GOES "WET"

Beaucoup de l'eau and not a drop to drink, came very near to being the situation in camp, when the spring that supplies the Camp went "wet" Sunday night, rising over 3 feet and flooding the pump pit, necessitating the shutting down of the large electric driven centrifugal pump. However the auxillary spring in camp was put on tap and saved the camp from the terrible fate of going DRY. Now to the men in camp, for various reasons there is no particular interest in the mere fact of one spring being turned loose or going dry in their midst, but the spring that supplies the camp has an interesting history.

Last June while digging a pit for use in shrinking the tubes in the large guns a large stream of water was tapped which for a time threatened to flood the works. But by the exercise of some engineering ingenuity this deluge was turned to a good purpose. It was walled in by concrete to, what was thought, a safe distance above the flood height and connected with a large pump and used as a source of supply for the camp supply pipe. Recent events, however, have shown that water will seek its own level and in this case the level was high enough to put the Electric Motor in the pump pit out of use. The Electrical Division has crews working in two shifts, lowering the level of the water and preparing against future "uprisings" and the system should soon be in operation once more. Meanwhile the auxillary system is working continuously to supply water for the boilers in the Shops and for limited Camp use.

'Twas the night before Pay Day, and all through my jeans,
I hunted in vain for the price of some beans.
Not a quarter was stirring, not even a "jit."
Un franc's were off duty; Centimes had quit.
Forward, turn forward, Oh Time in Thy flight,
Make it TOMORROW, just for TONIGHT.

MAKE The Mehun
News Your News-
Letter HOME. -:-:-